

PATENT SPECIFICATION



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COMPLETE SPECIFICATION

DRAWINGS ATTACHED

Improvements in or relating to Vessels for Containing Liquids

I, LESLIE EVERETT JEFFREY BAYNES, a British subject, of Baynes Engineering Limited, Royal London House, Bourne-mouth, Hampshire, do hereby declare the invention, for which I pray that a patent may be granted to me, and the method by which it is to be performed, to be particularly described in and by the following statement:—

The present invention relates to vessels for holding liquids and particularly, although not exclusively, to small containers for holding beverages, and has for its principal object to provide an inexpensive and expendable container not requiring a cork, cap, or opener and from which a beverage may be drunk without the need for a cup or straw.

According to the present invention, there is provided a vessel for containing liquid, the vessel having a flexible tube extending therefrom and adapted to be bent to bring its end into engagement with an air inlet in such a manner as to seal the air inlet, the vessel then being in a condition in which it is sealed against the escape of liquid, the flexible tube or a passage connecting therewith extending from the top to near the bottom of the vessel and the arrangement being such that when the flexible tube is removed from the air inlet substantially all the liquid contents of the vessel can be removed through the flexible tube while air enters through the air inlet.

The flexible tube may be of a plastics material and may be joined at one end to a vessel of any material. Preferably, however, the tube and vessel are formed integrally of a suitable plastics material.

One embodiment of the invention, as applied to a beverage container, will be described, by way of example, with reference to the drawing accompanying the Provisional Specification in which

Fig. 1 is a view of the embodiment in sec-

tional side elevation,

Fig. 2 is a view in section on the line 2-2 of Fig. 1,

Fig. 3 is a view in front elevation and

Figs. 4 and 5 are perspective views with the flexible tube in the closed and open positions respectively.

Referring to the drawing, a vessel 10 is of square cross-section and is formed as a one-piece injection moulding from a suitable transparent or translucent plastics material having some flexibility and of sufficient thickness to give adequate stiffness for handling. Suitable materials include polypropylene, polyethylene, cellulose acetate, rigid or semi-rigid P.V.C. or a combination of rigid and semi-rigid P.V.C. Formed integrally with the vessel 10 is a flexible tube 11 of rectangular cross-section, this tube or a passage connecting therewith extending along the inside of one wall 12 of the vessel nearly to the bottom of the vessel.

The tube 11 tapers towards its outer end which is a snug fit in a rectangular air-inlet aperture 13 in the top wall 14 of the vessel. The construction is such that when in the condition shown in Fig. 4, the vessel is sealed so that liquid within it cannot escape whatever the position of the vessel.

When it is desired to drink the contents of the vessel, the end of the tube 11 is removed from the air inlet 13, as shown in Fig. 5, and the contents can then be sucked out, as with a straw, air entering through the air inlet 13.

It is preferably arranged that when the tube 11 is removed from the air inlet 13, it assumes a curved shape as indicated in Fig. 5 so that its end is conveniently located for drinking when the vessel is held in an upright position below the mouth. Moreover, with this arrangement, the vessel can be laid down on its side 12 without allowing liquid

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to escape because both the air inlet 13 and the end of the tube 11 will be above the level of liquid within the vessel. Alternatively, of course, the full or partially emptied vessel may be sealed by inserting the end of the tube 11 in the air inlet 13.

In the embodiment illustrated the air-inlet aperture is of female design. The reverse arrangement may, however, be used, the end of the tube 11 fitting over a male member on the vessel. This male member is, however, preferably recessed into the wall of the vessel in order to provide a neat appearance when the tube 11 is removed whilst drinking. In either case the seal may be improved by using different materials for the engaging parts. For instance a bush of a suitable different material may be used in the female member or a sleeve of a suitable different material may be used on the male member. The seal may also be improved, in the case of either the male or female type inlet aperture by providing around the mouth of one member a small ridge which engages snugly in a groove around the mouth of the other member.

The vessel may be of any desired size. Thus, for instance, it may be so small as to be adapted to contain only a single measure of spirit or wine. A number of such vessels may be packed together in a container, in the same way as in a flat packet of cigars. Such vessels are of too small a cross-section to be stood upon their ends when the contents have been partly consumed and the ability to lay the vessels on their side, as above mentioned, without spilling the contents, is of substantial advantage.

Vessels of this or of larger sizes may conveniently be separately packed in sealed cartons to protect the tube and prevent its accidental withdrawal from the air inlet. Al-

ternatively only the end of the vessel on which the tube is arranged may be covered or sealed, as with a bottle top. The carton or wrapping may be of transparent material in order that a label on the vessel describing its contents may be visible.

Although particular reference has been made to vessels for containing beverages, the invention is not so limited but may be applied to containers for any liquid.

WHAT I CLAIM IS:—

1. A vessel for containing liquid, the vessel having a flexible tube extending therefrom and adapted to be bent to bring its end into engagement with an air inlet in such a manner as to seal the air inlet, the vessel then being in a condition in which it is sealed against the escape of liquid, the flexible tube or a passage connecting therewith extending from the top to near the bottom of the vessel and the arrangement being such that when the flexible tube is removed from the air inlet substantially all the liquid contents of the vessel can be removed through the flexible tube while air enters through the air inlet.

2. A vessel according to claim 1, wherein the flexible tube tapers towards its outer end.

3. A vessel according to claim 1 or 2 of substantially rectangular shape.

4. A vessel according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the said air inlet is in the region of the top of the vessel furthest from the flexible tube.

5. A vessel for containing liquid substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the drawing accompanying the Provisional Specification.

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1 SHEET

PROVISIONAL SPECIFICATION

This drawing is a reproduction of
the Original on a reduced scale.

group 319

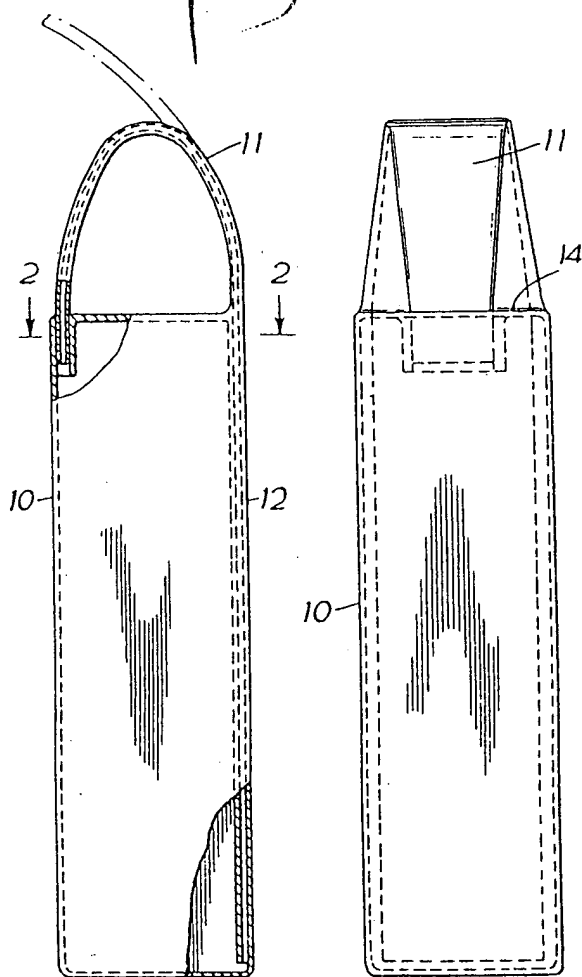


Fig. 1.

Fig. 3.

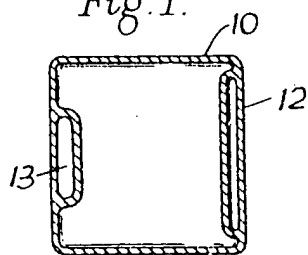


Fig. 2.

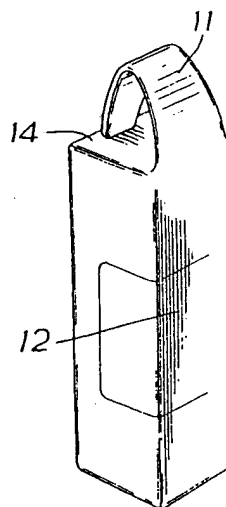


Fig. 4.

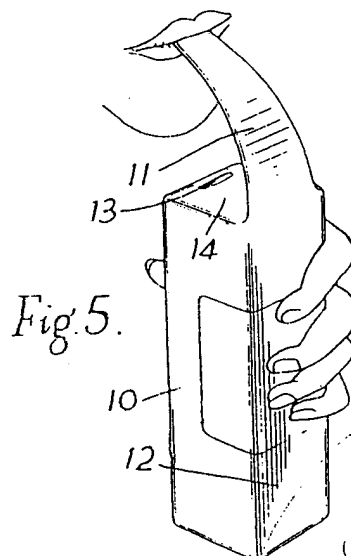


Fig. 5.

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